

# UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKER

MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION

VOL. 1

22

DETROIT, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1937

Price 5 Cents

Northrop Aviation  
Workers Attend A  
Mass Meeting.

## UAW WINNING AVIATION



Workers at the Northrop Aircraft Corp. plant at El Segundo, California went out on strike Sept. 2. Officials of the company threaten to close the plant indefinitely, but the workers, members of local 229, remain firm in their demands. Photo above shows C. Hollingshead, President of the local speaking to a group of pickets. Photo at the right shows the picket line before the plant. The boys mean what they say. (Acme Photos)

## 'Labor Wants Justice' Just Begun to Fight, Says Martin; Urges Labor Vote

"I was agreeably surprised to find," said President Homer Martin in his Labor Day address at Belle Isle Park, Detroit, "that our numbers had so increased that even a special police escort couldn't get us through the crowd."

"We are today celebrating the first Labor Day in which the automobile workers of the city of Detroit have taken a prominent part. We in the mass production industries are today celebrating Labor Day as we have never done before."

Praises Frank X. Martel

I'm proud to be here today on the platform with Frank X. Martel, President of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, and other representatives of the Federation of Labor here in Detroit and Wayne County, especially since it was Brother Martel who fought in the American Federation of Labor the first real battles for industrial unionism for the automobile workers of America.

Labor Only Demands Its Due

"We ask nothing for Labor except that to which Labor is entitled. We ask nothing for Labor except that which is good for the nation. Those who have demanded special privilege, those who have sought for a few of the nation's privileges and wealth the nation have all but destroyed everything decent in America."

The new labor movement in America today, said President Martel, will strike unmercifully for justice and justice for all of the overwhelming majority of the citizens of the nation.

Farmer Must Unite

"We are not neglecting, my friends, the farmers, but that all the farmers of America are becoming more and more aware that they are the natural

allies of Labor, that those who own the farms and till the farms and work and produce, like Labor, have been chiseled by the chiselers, and their heritage has been destroyed by those who are able to manipulate the finance and power of the nation. On this great Labor Day we turn to our brothers and sisters on the farm and say to them, "We propose to you that workers and farmers shall march together, fight together, vote together for a better nation."

The only thing in America that the reactionaries and Tories fear and the economic royalists fear is when Americans get ready to build their own organizations. That's what they fear, that's when they fear.

Just Begun To Fight!

"We close by saying to you that Labor has just begun to fight! Labor has just started to march! Labor is just beginning to wake up; this giant is now coming to life . . . Our task ahead is to build for better things for more Americans! Our job is to clean up the swamps, dredge the streams, plow the prairies of a social and economic system that will bring justice to all the people."



## Douglas Bluff Fails; Strikers Undaunted

Los Angeles.—Bluffs of the Douglas Aircraft corporation, diehard anti-union employer, failed this week to break a strike in one of its plants or to hinder organization in a second.

The statement of Donald W. Douglas, president of the corporation, that he had closed the Northrop aircraft plant, a subsidiary, and that it "no longer exists as an industrial entity" was viewed by UAW strikers as an empty threat.

More than 200 pickets continued to march in front of the plant after Douglas issued the statement.

At the firm's Santa Monica plant, 4,000 circulars warning workers against a strike attempt were distributed by the Aircraft Workers union, an "independent" union of plant employees.

Headed "Warning", the circular demagogically attacked the UAW as "violent" and "destructive" because of its militancy and unwillingness to accept without a murmur the highly unsatisfactory conditions decreed by the management.

Readers were invited to attend a meeting of "independents" at 11:45 a. m. on the vacant lot across the street from the plant's main clock house.

Needless to say, the workers saw through this scheme of so-called independents who were merely acting as stooges for the bosses.

tory conditions decreed by the management.

Readers were invited to attend a meeting of "independents" at 11:45 a. m. on the vacant lot across the street from the plant's main clock house.

Needless to say, the workers saw through this scheme of so-called independents who were merely acting as stooges for the bosses.

### LOCAL 240 UAW

Local 240, DSR unit of the UAW, will hold a special meeting Sept. 17 at 8 p. m. in Northern high school to discuss ways and means of transferring its members into Local 167 of the Transport Workers union.

Local 167, although only a week old, marched proudly on Labor Day under a CIO banner and received the enthusiastic applause of Detroit citizens who were spectators.

The idea of one big union under the CIO is catching on among DSR men in all phases of industry. The definite advantages of belonging to a union which can provide unlimited support and lead and other facilities are becoming apparent to success in growing numbers of the department stores.

### 1500 Join UAW

Workers are wearing UAW buttons in the plant and CIO stickers are being plastered all over the plant and the planes. Workers who were misled into joining the company union are actually demanding refunds of dues. Campaign stickers are attempting to parade around with UAW application cards asking people to join, but even this has failed.

Of the 1,500 workers in the Glenn Martin plant over 1,000 have already become members of the unit. Daily the local union leaders

**Vote Labor!**



## Columbus Firm Faces NLRB

Columbus, Ind.—Building up a strong case against the management of the Cummins Diesel Motor company and its company union, the United Automobile Workers will go to bat this month before the National Labor Relations Board which charges Cummins Diesel with breaking practically every clause in the Wagner act.

The UAW in a previous action secured the reinstatement of all but three of 60 employees discharged for union activity. At that time the labor board issued an ultimatum to the management to sever relations with the company sponsored union and requested that notices be posted to that effect for 30 days.

The company, however, thinking it was larger than the labor board, ignored the decision and brought on the pending case.

The company union, under the guidance of Lew Sharpneek, local attorney, applied for a charter with the secretary of state of Indiana, but found that the UAW had blocked this move.

Attorney Sharpneek and the officers of the company union now deny any attempt of theirs to charter the pet union. But the UAW had definite proof that efforts were made to secure a charter.

The Cummins Diesel Local is cited as an entirely self-organized union. The employees banded together and applied for a charter without the assistance of an organizer—an excellent example of the self-organization that is going on throughout the country today.

It was not until several weeks ago that a call was sent out for a UAW organizer. In response to the call, International Representative Ralph Riddle was stationed in Columbus.

## Noblitt Sparks Is Next For UAW

Noblitt Sparks industries are located in plants at Greenwood, Franklin, Columbus and Seymour. An active drive is being carried on in these centers and employees are signing up in the UAW every day.

Rank discrimination is practiced against the workers by forcing them to sign individual agreements with the company denying them seniority rights above three months regardless of how long they have been employed at the plant. At the end of three months' continuous employment, the workers are fired and automatically rehired, thus preventing them from acquiring any accumulative seniority above three months.

Wages in all of these plants are extremely low. All competitors in this line, with the exception of Noblitt Sparks, have signed UAW contracts. With the present determination of the workers, NS will be the next to sign on the dotted line.

### FOR 100% UNION TOWN

Due to the pioneer efforts of the UAW in starting organization in Columbus, Joseph Persily, regional director of the CIO in Indiana, is placing a full time organizer in the city to help in the drive to



—Detroit Times Photo.

Photo above shows Ford workers masked to protect themselves from Ford's infamous servicemen. Photo below shows auto workers in the line of march, fully conscious that they have agreements with their employers, and a strong organization back of them.

## DETROIT'S LABOR SLATE

By JOEL SEIDMAN

(Reprinted with permission from The Nation.)

In this proletarian, union-conscious city labor has a real chance to nominate its candidates in the non-partisan primary to be held on October 5, and to put them in office in the final election on November 2. Indeed, the United Automobile Workers alone may achieve some political success. Already that vigorous union has 200,000 members in Detroit, with 100,000 auto workers yet to be enrolled. In a city with a population of 1,700,000, 300,000 auto workers and their families are already a majority.

Patrick H. O'Brien, a liberal Democratic lawyer with a good labor record in the labor candidate for mayor. O'Brien worked in the copper mines for several years, then taught school, and

make Columbus a 100 per cent union town.

Last week the UAW called a meeting for all employees of the Handl and Tool company and signed up 75 per cent of the plant. On the second meeting, the total went up to 90 per cent.

The union drive has now extended to Monney's Tannery and the Wadley Packing company, from which a substantial percentage have signed up already.

finally practiced law. Elected to the bench in 1911, he won attention by dissolving an injunction that had been issued against striking copper miners. The injunction forbade picketing, and O'Brien dissolved it on the ground that the constitutional rights of the miners had been impaired. He hopes to obtain the support of the local Democratic Party, or a part of it, in addition to that of the CIO.

The seventeen-point platform that has been drawn up and tentatively adopted is a progressive one. Perhaps the most sweeping plank proposes that public utilities be municipal owned, as the street railways have been since 1922. Other planks provide for labor representation on all commissions, the forty-hour week for city employees, advancement on a seniority basis, and hours and wages for city workers similar to those prevailing for the same classifications in private business. The police are to be used to protect the people, not to evict or intimidate them or to break strikes. An adequate welfare budget is to be established and overcrowding in classrooms eliminated. Health facilities are to be expanded and free medical service into be provided to those unable to pay. Sweatshop conditions are to be abolished.

Lower taxation for the low wage-earner is promised, together with increased and enforced taxation of the wealthy. This is of

particular importance in a state that since 1933 has had a 3 per cent sales tax, even food. On the issue of housing which is vital just now in Detroit, the platform pledges an adequate program to include the abolition of city slums and the establishment of a municipal housing project.

The automobile workers have already learned that friends of labor are not always to be trusted after they attain political office, even when they hail from labor's ranks. The union members learned this last March when they staged their great protest demonstration in Cadillac Square, in the heart of Detroit. When they asked for a permit to demonstrate there, every member of the Detroit Common Council voted in the negative, including Robert G. Ewald, president of the bricklayer's union, who had been elected two years before with the backing of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor. Not until the auto workers announced that they would demonstrate in Cadillac Square, permit or not permit did the city councilmen vote grudgingly in assent.

Ewald, for this and similar reasons, is not precisely popular among the auto workers. The district council of the United Automobile Workers, with Ewald in mind voted not to support any member of the present council for reelection. When the Building Trades Council withdrew its support

## 75,000 in Labor Fete

The weather, the AFL and the CIO worked together, so during about the biggest and most impressive demonstration of labor solidarity ever seen on Labor Day in Detroit. It was the first parade here in 21 years and it was one to be long remembered.

Estimates of the number marching varied all the way from around 7,000 by the Detroit News to 75,000 by the Detroit Times.

## Pact Clears Toledo Air

Toledo.—An agreement granting the United Automobile Workers sole bargaining agency for employees of the Spicer Manufacturing corporation erased a blot on the industrial landscape here this week.

The contract, which was ratified at a meeting of the Spicer unit of Local 12 Thursday night, also provides for a five-cent blanket increase, as of Jan. 1, 1938, and a three-cent bonus for night work.

Last week UAW members were placed in the position of not being able to carry out the contract which they had signed because company employees who claimed themselves members of the MESA out consulting Local 12.

irresponsibly called a strike which This violation of the rights of the UAW, the duly elected representatives of the employees under NLRB, made it impossible for Local 12 to execute its part in the existing contract.

Negotiations were started immediately and at their conclusion it was the opinion of the executive shop committee that the agreement reached will prevent a recurrence of such a situation.

## Hold Largest Labor Parade

Connersville, Ind.—Indiana's fourth industrial city witnessed its largest parade Sunday when its four UAW locals, in conjunction with District Council 6, staged a mammoth pre-Labor Day celebration.

UAW delegates from Newell, Ohio, Pontiac, and Muncie joined in to help form a parade which was over four miles long. Adding color to the scene were several bands, a fire and drum corps, local flags and union caps. Several of Women's auxiliaries were turned in white.

A large audience gathered earlier at the hall of the V. C. Council of B. A. T. executive director, J. M. McLean, and his wife, Mrs. McLean, and the UAW and Socialist Party.

Due to the withdrawal of the Building Trades Council, the UAW

(Continued on P. 11)



# TAKE IT?

vers are com-  
nizations, and  
he workers is  
o strategy"—  
as I get the  
an lead them  
without them  
o they howl  
their racket  
they assume  
look of the  
send fervent  
r the work-

y" is great  
es", because  
agreements  
hold their  
struggles,  
s arise with  
verdict—  
up first and  
ou're look-  
in person,"  
these racket-  
hear them

are really  
ters aren't  
em. What  
personal  
reporters  
to all the  
in some  
personal  
greatness.  
ose they

M.

lers

he num-  
common  
rs in the  
363,675  
period,  
for the  
was re-

ders of  
ferred  
common  
second

are on the picket line and the  
patrol wagon is jammed full of  
arrested strikers. Does that stop  
a "hero"? No, sir! He slugs the  
cop, rides on the top, hangs on  
the rear, runs after it—he must  
be arrested!

Real leaders sometimes get  
slugged or arrested. But this occurs  
in the line of duty and is not  
deliberately provoked. The hero  
of UAW battles has been the entire  
membership; they win its  
strikes!

**I'M A TOUGH GUY.** There is  
the bird who gets up at a meeting  
and says, "I never went to grammar  
school, high school or college, I can't talk dem two-bit  
words, I'm just a plain, ordinary  
worker and I tink all de guy  
here wants to hear the works and  
let's get down to brass tacks with  
out all dem highbrow speeches."

This is the guy that is always  
riding anything that will make  
the worker think or act on a  
higher level of intelligence. This  
is the guy that actually despises  
his fellow workers—he wants to  
keep them on the low level that  
the employers like to keep labor  
on. He caters to the lowest level  
of intelligence. This is the guy  
that likes Hearst headlines, pink  
green and yellow papers, tiny  
articles so as not to overwork his  
little brain and to keep the other  
fellow's brain as small and weak  
as his own.

**THE HOT LINE.** This is one  
of the surefire indications that  
there is something rotten—and  
it's not the cheese in Denmark.  
It's the guy that starts his speeches  
with "I," starts every succeeding  
sentence with "I" and winds up  
with "I."

It goes like this—I have worked  
for fourteen years in the Locomo-  
bile automobile plant . . . I know  
. . . I remember . . . I have suf-  
fered . . . I have slayed . . . I am  
a worker . . . I have been in the  
trade union movement for years  
and years and years . . . I . . . etc.  
etc.\*

# Martin On Detroit Election

## Labor and the Law

### YELLOW DOG CONTRACTS, INJUNCTIONS AND A LEGISLATION PROGRAM FOR UNIONS.

(Continued from last week)

It is worth taking a moment of your time to give you a single illustration of how the courts, even after they yield to the pressure of labor, for the right to organize, grasp at every device to nullify that right. The yellow-dog contract is a good example. The yellow-dog contract is a promise by a worker not to join a union so long as he holds his job. Most contracts are made to be enforced. Not so with the yellow dog contract. In its entire history there is not a single instance of an employer going to court to sue an employee for violation of such an agreement. The yellow-dog contract was not even contrived so that the employer could discharge

a worker if he joined a union. The employer did not need a contract for that purpose. Why, then, did employers want their employees to sign yellow-dog contracts? The answer is that the courts eagerly attributed a magic effect to these agreements. With their aid an employer could secure an injunction against any union which sought to organize his employees, on the legal theory that such action induced his employees to break their contracts. To you this may sound like so much word-chopping by lawyers. But in 1921 the Supreme Court of the United States gave its blessing to this legal trickery. In the Hitchcock Coal Company case our highest court held that a yellow-dog contract justified an injunction which practically forbade the United Mine Workers to

organize the non-union coal fields of West Virginia.

It is any wonder, therefore, that one of labor's greatest fights has been to end its subjection through the issuance of injunctions. It has been an epic fight. For the courts not only made laws themselves, but in the name of the Constitution decided what laws the legislators might make to limit the oppression of labor by the courts. Anti-injunction laws were constructed so as to leave untouched the evils they were designed to remove. When laws were passed which defied judicial misinterpretation, they were declared unconstitutional. But labor pressed on, despite the fact that the courts had invested anti-unionism with their own prestige and with the aura of the Constitution.

## Courts Bow to Militant Labor

It is no accident that a few months ago when labor under the leadership of the CIO was in the midst of a vast campaign of organization, when organized labor was throwing its full force behind the President's plan to curb the power of the courts, that at that moment the Supreme Court suddenly experienced such a change of heart or legal concepts as to curse it for the first time to uphold in full vigor an anti-injunction law. And it is no accident that at this same fateful term of court both the Washington minimum wage law and the Wagner Labor Act were also sustained.

The Supreme Court's decision upholding the Wisconsin anti-injunction law leaves reluctant legislators no constitutional fig-leaf behind which they can hide their subservience to employers. More than a dozen states have already passed laws similar to the Federal Norris-LaGuardia Act. These statutes limit the powers of the courts to issue injunctions in labor

disputes, declare yellow-dog contracts contrary to public policy and hence unenforceable, and guarantee the right of jury trial to those accused of contempt of a labor injunction. One of your tasks is to see to it that there is not a single state where such laws are not adopted to cage the injunction menace. At its last session, the Michigan legislature, whose laws touch the very heart of your organization, refused to pass such a statute. Its enactment at the next session should be one of the imperatives of your program.

When the law first recognized the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively it may have rested upon the simple proposition that this was the only means by which labor could effectively bargain for its daily bread. At that time, labor's right amounted to little more than freedom from criminal prosecution once it had run the gauntlet of hostile statutes and even more hostile in-

junctions. More recently much of this repressive legislation has been repealed; the courts have grudgingly yielded recognition of labor's rights; the wholesale issuance of injunctions has been curbed. These gains have given substance to labor's right to organize and bargain collectively. But until recently there remained an enormous and ever-widening gulf between the social necessity for that right and its legal status.

The development of American industry has made collective bargaining the only means of preserving some semblance of a balance between the mass of the people and the masters of finance and industry. Without that balance wage-earners cannot secure a sufficient share of the wealth they produce to maintain and improve their standard of living. Without that balance the domination of finance and industry over the social, economic and political life of this country would be complete.

## Warns of Broader Challenge to Labor

The time has come when the right to organize and bargain collectively is as vital to the welfare of the nation as the right to political franchise and democratic representation. Without the one right there can be no assurance that the other will endure.

Despite these dynamic social implications of the right to organize and bargain collectively the law remained static. Labor's right was neither enforceable by law nor protected by law. Employers could with impunity discharge workers because of union membership or activity. The weapons of economic terror, company spies, blacklists, and the company union were entirely legal. Neither labor nor the public could longer tolerate such a situation. Under the leadership of labor the first

great step to end it was taken through the passage of the Wagner Labor Relations Act which makes illegal these employer infi-ferences with labor's right. We will be frank with you. We are of the opinion that you are not interested in good government for the City of Detroit. On the contrary, we are of the opinion that your organization is actually the political front for the economic royalists who have been in control of the administration of municipal affairs in this city for many years.

**Prefer Disapproval**

We do not desire your endorsement. We would regard it as a reflection upon ourselves. We prefer your disapproval, knowing that the people of this city are at least aware of the hypocritical role which you are playing to further the interest of big business. If there is a person here still

labor in general. I have been able only briefly to touch upon a program of legislation necessary for the fullest realization of the right. Steadfast courage, wise to organize and bargain collectively. Steadfast courage, wise leadership and true vision will be necessary to translate this program into law. You have demonstrated those qualities in the building of your union. You will need them in even fuller measure to meet the broader challenge that lies ahead. The workers of America expect you to take up that challenge.

## Candidates Lash Citizens League

Detroit Citizens League  
1022 Dime Bank Building  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sirs:

The undersigned candidates for Common Council join in this communication to you in response to your questionnaire.

We will be frank with you. We are of the opinion that you are not interested in good government for the City of Detroit. On the contrary, we are of the opinion that your organization is actually the political front for the economic royalists who have been in control of the administration of municipal affairs in this city for many years.

**Prefer Disapproval**

We do not desire your endorsement. We would regard it as a reflection upon ourselves. We prefer your disapproval, knowing that the people of this city are at least aware of the hypocritical role which you are playing to further the interest of big business. If there is a person here still

laboring under any misapprehension about your objectives, their misapprehension ought to be dispelled by a perusal of the questions which you ask. To illustrate; you ask for our views regarding "the whole problem of city government in relation to industrial questions, agitation, strikes and threatened disorder". It will be observed that you throw into the same category "agitation, strikes and threatened disorder". It is perfectly obvious that when workers seek to organize into unions for their protection and the advancement of their interests, to you they are guilty of "agitation"; when after years of oppression, low wages and long hours they are compelled to strike, to you they are guilty of "disorder". Certainly no forward-looking, progressive candidate can expect to receive anything but prejudiced treatment from an organization which so pointedly represents the point of view of

gigantic corporate interests of the city.

### Important Omissions

It might well be added that your questionnaire is also interesting for what it does not ask. Not a word about the vicious spy system and black-list of "the Detroit factories. Not a word about the maintenance of freedom of speech, press and assembly for the citizens of Detroit. Not a word about the deplorable housing situation and the proposals for relief for the hundreds of thousands of persons who are obliged to pay exorbitant rentals, or to live in hovels which are a disgrace to every American. Not a word about the dictatorial and illegal administration of our police department. You are not interested in the masters, are you? Well, the people of Detroit are!

that the people of this city are no longer going to be deceived by your organization, and we confidently expect that your "committee", together with the groups whose views you really represent—the Manufacturers' Association, the Employers Association and the Board of Commerce—are due for an abrupt awakening in the coming election. You may surmise that we propose to do our part to ring the alarm.

Patrick H. O'Brien  
Tracy Doll  
Maurice Sugar  
Walter Reuther  
Richard T. Frankensteen  
R. J. Thomas

**Due for Surprise**  
We have been frank with you, haven't we? May we add, in this respect, that it is

**Brothers,**  
**Say It**  
**With Ballots!**

To All Locals in Detroit Affiliated with the United Automobile Workers of America  
Greetings:

This is one of the most important communications you have received from me since the formation of the United Automobile Workers of America.

For the first time in the history of this city the organized workers are taking an energetic part in the municipal election. In so doing we have undertaken a campaign in which we cannot afford to fail.

Many of you heard the radio speech the other night of John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, in which he sounded the keynote of labor's new drive on the political front. Our city of Detroit is the first battleground in this crucial effort.

The time has arrived when labor must protect its gains in organization by entering actively into politics to insure that the city, state and national governments shall not be controlled by hostile officials who would seek to sabotage progressive laws or cripple labor by repressive laws.

The automobile workers of Detroit were the first to go over the top in the organization of workers on the industrial union basis. Now you must also be the first to advance on the political field. The eyes of the nation are on Detroit's labor ticket.

On the ticket which we have entered—not merely endorsed—are four officers of the UAW—our brothers who have already demonstrated to us their capacity for leadership. The labor candidate for mayor is Judge Patrick H. O'Brien, a fighting progressive.

With Judge O'Brien on the ticket are Richard T. Frankensteen, president of the Dodge Local No. 3, Tracy M. Doll, president of Hudson Local No. 154, Walter Reuther, president of West Side Local No. 174, R. J. Thomas, president of Chrysler Local No. 7 and Maurice Sugar, prominent labor lawyer who is, in every sense of the word, one of us.

Every man on this ticket represents labor and it is of utmost importance that every member of the UAW in Detroit votes for each candidate. You will receive detailed instructions from Alan Strachan, campaign manager whose headquarters are at 203 Hofmann Building. Wholehearted cooperation with that office is essential to a victory at the polls.

Register before September 15 and then in the primary on October 5 and the election on November 2 "vote labor" for a better governed Detroit, a stronger union, and a more progressive nation.

Fraternally and earnestly yours,  
Homer Martin,  
General President.

Auto workers, you can win \$50 in prizes for the best campaign song.

For the best song written by any member of the UAWA in Detroit the Political Action Committee will pay \$25. Second prize is \$10, third and fourth, \$5, and then there are five \$1 prizes.

Those who enter the contest need to write only the words of a song. For the music, select any popular tune of the past or of today.

Each song submitted should consist of three four-line verses. The theme, of course, is the importance of a labor victory at the polls this Fall in the city election.

Closing date of this contest is Sept. 18. The judges will award prizes promptly after that date. No songs postmarked after midnight Sept. 18 will be eligible for the pugding.



PHILIP MURRAY  
Chairman of the Steel Workers  
Organizing Committee.

The leader of steel reviews gains made by the CIO. However, since this writing hundreds of thousands of additional workers in oil, agriculture, marine, textiles, lumber, etc., have entered the ranks of the Committee for Industrial Organization.

Organization was created of necessity—driven by the very forces of absolute and positive necessity.

For some 15 or 20 years during the period in which transitions were taking place with respect to the production of steel, rubber, automobiles and kindred things, leaders of labor—enlightened leaders of labor—had come to the conclusion that the old method of organizing men in great mass production industries was rather antiquated, had borne little fruit, that no success could attend the efforts of any movement which attempted to organize men in these great basic mass production industries into craft unions.

#### EXPERIENCE TEACHES

Experience had taught that lesson because none of the mass production industries of the United States had ever been organized on any permanent basis. None of the workers in those industries had ever been organized. When certain leaders affiliated with the American Federation of Labor courageously fought upon the floor of the various conventions of the American Federation of Labor for a change of policy, to permit creation of a department of industrial organization, those conventions told the leaders that sponsored such movements that the American Federation of Labor did not propose to change its policy with respect to the organization of the mass production industries. Therefore, the leaders of the Committee for Industrial Organization felt it incumbent upon themselves to do something about it. They felt that the very life plant of the existing great industrial unions was in constant jeopardy if other mass production industries remained unorganized.

Different plans were offered for the organization of these industries. Eighteen months ago, when the Committee for Industrial Organization was formed, we found that there were approximately 3,500,000 people in the American Federation of Labor, and there were approximately 30,000,000 workers in the country. There were some 4,500,000 organized including those organized and not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor leaving some twenty-five and one-half million wage earners in the United States without protection of a bona-fide legitimate labor union. So the Committee for Industrial Organization was formed.

#### CIO UNIONS EXPAND

You have been reading in newspapers about things that have been transpiring in the various industries in the last few months. Ten months ago, there were 15,000 dues paying members in the auto workers union. Today, due to the Committee for Industrial Organization and the officers of that union, there are about 375,000 dues paying members.

Ten months ago, in an industry giving employment to 120,000 men and women, the textile industry, they had 1,000 dues paying members. A few months ago the Committee for Industrial Organization organized the Textile

# John L. Lewis to the UAW Convention

(Continued From Last Week.)

There is need for organization of workers; there is work to be done. Time is a factor. Labor must become conscious of its strength, and labor must put its own internal house in order and undertake to use its strength and use its energy and use its time and its money not in contentions and evasions in its own councils, but against the common adversaries of labor, those corporate representatives who deny the right of labor to organize, those representatives of special interest represented by some of our newspapers and public officials who rail against and criticize the efforts of labor to establish organization.

#### LABOR MUST BECOMES ARTICULATE

You know labor has nothing but its own strength; labor don't own the radio stations throughout America that disseminate propaganda and calumination. Labor does not own these great strings of newspapers and publications throughout this country. Labor has no publications except its own small trade organs; although I might just stop, in passing, long enough to say that when this work of organization gets a little further down the road, then I am going to suggest to the American Labor Movement that we organize and publish here in America a great national newspaper that will tell the truth.

Labor in America is determined to become articulate and labor in America will not have its families and its dependents rely upon newspapers like the New York Herald Tribune, the Chicago Tribune, and a great number of others that I could name who continually assail the ears of their readers with a drum fire of distortion and a mis-statement and exaggeration and denunciation of the logical aims of labor. Labor wants nothing that is not virtuous. The ideals of labor are not discreditable motivations that spring from the heart of every man who desires to improve his own condition, to elevate the social status of the men and women of labor and of the country as a whole.

We hold that those ideals are meritorious and we hold that we have the right to demand a proper participation and a proper distribution of the natural and artificial bounties of American industry and American life. We will continue to say that thing, and the thing that is going to make such an achievement possible is the organization in American industry of great unions like your own, capable of standing with their fellows here in our country for the attainment and the logical ideals of labor.

#### KEEPS HOUSE IN ORDER

However, there exists, of course, the necessity to be wise in counsel ourselves and to keep our own household in order. I wonder how much each of you under-

stands of the importance of your position in this great convention today. You are here representing your constituent membership who selected you as a leader to come to this convention and legislate for them, and upon each of you there accrues a great responsibility, because you are not only representing your own constituency but you are standing here in the pitiless limelight of national publicity, where your every official act as a convention will be examined from the standpoint of the many who are eager to find baws in your procedure or a defect in your policy whereby to give them ammunition to assail not only you, but the movement that you typify and represent.

stand of the importance of your position in this great convention today. You are here representing your constituent membership who selected you as a leader to come to this convention and legislate for them, and upon each of you there accrues a great responsibility, because you are not only representing your own constituency but you are standing here in the pitiless limelight of national publicity, where your every official act as a convention will be examined from the standpoint of the many who are eager to find baws in your procedure or a defect in your policy whereby to give them ammunition to assail not only you, but the movement that you typify and represent.

#### CONVENTION WATCHED

Every newspaper in America is watching this convention. Every magazine writer and publicist in America has his eyes upon this convention. Every politician of any political party in this country is watching this convention. Why? Well, because they are measuring the success and the future of the CIO by what this convention does. This convention represents a great segment of the CIO. The Automobile Workers Union is one of the great units of the CIO. You are on your way to become one of the largest, if not the largest union in America, for when you complete the work of organization in the automobile industry your union will be of comparable size, if not exceeding in numerical strength the United Mine Workers of America, the greatest union in this hemisphere.

#### MINER AND AUTO WORKER

There is a bond of affinity and understanding between the man in the automobile industry and the man in the mining industry, because here and there throughout your great industry are great numbers of men who were formerly in the mining industry and here within the sound of my voice this morning will be found men after man among your delegates who formerly worked in the mines and who formerly were members of the United Mine Workers of America.

Let me say to you that when you perfect this work of organization in your industry—and it is not perfect yet—when you perfect this work of organization, your union, the United Mine Workers of America, The Ladies' Garment Workers International Union, The Amalgamated Clothing Workers, The Steel Workers will form a mighty group capable of marching in the vanguard of the CIO and accepting the hazards of any opposition that may come, to carry the banner of labor down the years of the future. The world recognizes that fact.

#### ENEMIES WILL DISTORT

If you make errors of procedure or judgment in this convention your critics

and your adversaries will distort and exaggerate. They will claim that it is your responsibility to the people not dwell within the CIO. The CIO is not the virtuous, refined little Lord Fauntleroy of the American Federation of Labor.

So, friends of mine, I measure your responsibility. If you will accept my advice you operate in making this convention a success.

Speaking just as a member of my family, I understand that you not proceeded as far with your convention as you might have another set of circumstances. This is division on the committee report, division on different matters. I urge you not to take too seriously a point of procedure or decision in this convention. Your great responsibility is to get a constitution and do the work of organization in the automobile industry, and to lend your strength to the CIO in helping to organize these other industries now less favorably situated.

You know as the years roll by, are going to have a lot of success in conventions, and every time you go back to your convention you will consider each paragraph of your constitution and each resolution that is introduced from your membership in this great form of debate you from time to time adopt such and make such changes as your judgment may indicate. For that you do not expect to do a perfect job. It can't be done, no matter what you do or how long you stay here. You not have a perfect constitution, you emerge from this convention cause you will wish to refine the constitution in the light of your experience as the years go by.

The United Mine Workers of America have been writing a constitution since 1890, yet there is scarcely a convention goes by but what there is some change made in the constitution or provisions in the light of additional experiences and in the light of the test and the passage of the years.

#### ANNUAL CONFABS BURDEN

I have this to say. I think you to follow comment sense, some of these things. My advice, course, is binding on no delegate. I know, I am sure, that I have no right except that of seeing you do by yourselves and by the labor movement. But I understand that a division of sentiment to some as to whether you should have a convention yearly or every two years if you had a small organization, the size of the one you had, I would not be any great trouble to a yearly convention, but since you grow up into this gigantic where you are today, as a matter I think that you would be to have a convention every year, because these conventions are big affairs, costing tremendous money, taking a great deal of the preparation for the convention weeks of work on the part of the officers, and the carrying out of mandates of the convention, of work upon the part of the officers, to execute, and to undergo the period elapse between one of your conventions.

(Applause.)

I can only say to you, the United Mine Workers of America, about the only thing that can be compared with the annual convention is the annual convention every year, that it is subject to membership and the effects of the real world, the

# John L. Lewis Speech

(Continued from page 6)

would be the case if the were held annually. It is a matter of membership of the organization. I don't think the United Workers of America want all of their money and all of their time and all of their time in conventions of them in the CIO and America's unemployed millions need your help, your labor money to lift them from economic misery, to the extent which you hold today, etc.

## POLITICAL RIVALRY

It is a fact—I don't think you should take so seriously the rivalry in the organization because it exists, and it is well that it is so. It is very fine to have our young men in the industry strive to be elected to offices and representatives of the organization. It would be a very sad if that were not true, because these young men rests the destiny of the future of the organization, and we must have time to train them in their duties in an enlargement of vision, and to give them experience in the field of practical administration.

But I don't think you should permit yourselves to be brought into a position before the public at large of being engaged in political contests or political activity to the point where the public believe that that rivalry may affect the integrity of your union. Of course I know that that is not true, because I feel well that this union is founded on the rock of the appreciation and loyalty of its hundreds of thousands of members, and that nothing that will happen in this convention or elsewhere tear asunder the United Automobile Workers or even weaken it before adversaries.

However, it is necessary to guard against these impressions going forth in the world, because sitting here in front of you and under this platform comes and scores of representatives of the press of America, and I want you to follow policies here that showing that you are engaged in a dogged prevent the world at large from understanding the struggle for political supremacy in the United Automobile Workers of America.

## Victories Quench Critics

With all the sentiment in the hearts of the members of the automobile workers—and no one has to tell me, because I have been out and seen it in your great hall, it is just about the same as in some of our other industries, of which I want to read to you a telegram that has just been handed to me from President Dalrymple, United Goodyear Workers in Akron. You know the other day they had an election in Goodyear plant, and now they have had an election in the Goodrich Rubber plant. President Dalrymple says, "Goodrich workers voted 8,212 for the union 2,442 against."

There is the answer to our critics as to what is in the heart of our people, as they have a chance, free from intimidation and oppression to express what is in their hearts. That is the CIO stands for in this country the right to express what is in our hearts and the workers of this country

## Pretty Good Officers

As far as your officers are concerned, I know all of your officers personally. They all look like pretty good men. You know, I have sat down with all of them, I have had the negotiations with all of them. Do you know what I have done? Why, a few months ago I had 25,000 members or 30,000 officers went out and they increased membership up to 400,000. You want out of officers? What would you want an officer to do? Administer the affairs of the union, and go out and increase the membership of the union? They have done once, twice, thrice, ten times. I think they are deserving of the formation of this great organization. As a matter of fact, the fabrication of the

automobile industry in this year's time has been one of the most outstanding accomplishments that labor anywhere in the world has ever done before. That is what I think about it. And, I think that the officers of this organization who led you through that enterprise and to that objective of success are deserving of your commendation.

## LEFT AND RIGHT

You know there used to be a great tight-rope walker years ago before the time we were born whose name was Blondin, and he carried a man on his back on a steel cable across Niagara Falls,—a remarkable feat. Well, suppose I had been that man on Blondin's back, and after Blondin had carried me across while I held my breath and shut my eyes and held on to him for dear life, suppose I had said to Blondin by the time he had carried me over to the side with you; I am dissatisfied with you, Canadian side, "Blondin, I am dissatisfied with you, because back there 150 yards when you were right over the center of the Horseshoe Falls, you leaned too far to the left," or, "Blondin, you leaned too far to the right."

## CROWNED WITH GLORY

As a far as I am concerned, I am for the officers of the United Automobile Workers because I think that they have crowned themselves and your union with glory in the degree of their achievement. I simply say this in passing as an honest tribute, where a tribute and commendation is due, and not with any desire to affect your own individual judgment. I mention these things, however, because they run to the question of the administration of this union. They run to the question of the orderly legislation to be carried on by this parliament, they run to the question of regaining the confidence of your own constituencies and your own members; and back behind that the confidence of the members of the associated organizations in our great movement, and back behind that the confidence of the American people in the ability of organized labor to wisely conduct its own affairs.

## FORDISM DOOMED

Now, my friends, the hour grows unseemly. I am going to close very shortly. You have work to do in this convention. I am satisfied that you will do that work and close up your convention as you all hope to do, because this is your first convention, and you have work to do in the field. Among the things you have to do is bringing the right of self-organization into the hands of the many thousands of workers employed in the plants of Mr. Henry Ford. It does not make any difference how long it takes to organize the Ford plants, the United Automobile Workers and its members are going to accomplish that task. Henry Ford may believe that he is the biggest industrialist in America, he may believe that his will is superior to the will of his employees, he may believe that he is bigger than the United Automobile Workers, he may believe that he is bigger than the Congress of the United States when he refuses to abide by the Wagner Act enacted by the Congress, he may believe all of those things, but if he continues to believe those things he is going to be a tired old man pretty soon. And some of these days he is going to get very, very tired and some of these days Henry Ford will stop flying in the fact of the inevitable, and he will be willing to accord to his employees the rights that are theirs, and when he does, you won't have to organize the Ford employees, they will flock into your union, they will demand the right of entrance.

**CIO NEEDS UAW AID**  
That is just one of the tasks ahead of your organization. There are a great many other tasks ahead of your organization and ahead of the associated unions in the Committee for Industrial Organization. The Committee for Industrial Organization wants the help, aid and support of the Automobile Workers to organize those workers who are unfortunately situated. Let the strong help the weak. Give of your strength to someone who has not that strength. That is the watch-word of the labor movement, that is the shibboleth of the times in the economic affairs of this country.

There is work to do here in America.



DIRECT ALL FUNDS AND COMMUNICATIONS TO  
**Tom Mooney**  
**Molders' Defense Committee**

PO BOX 1475 SAN FRANCISCO  
MOTHER OF ALL WORKERS  
FORMED BY MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL MOLDERS UNION  
TONY MOONEY—DIRECTOR

August 21, 1937



California State Prison,  
San Quentin, California.

SEP 2 1937

Mr. Homer Martin, President  
United Automobile Workers of America,  
801 Hoffmann Bldg.  
Detroit, Mich.

Dear President Martin:

I was overwhelmed when news came to me of the glorious action taken by your Convention on the Mooney-Billings case. It gladdens my heart to know that the United Automobile Workers of America have shown by their action that they are 100% behind this fight and that they will see it through to the end.

At the present time we are making efforts to carry the case to the United States Supreme Court in Washington, and of course we need every last bit of support we can muster. I have written to your Assistant, Brother Emerson, asking that an official copy of the Resolution be sent to me care of the Tom Mooney Molders' Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1475, San Francisco, Calif.

I also make the request that the donation be forwarded to the Tom Mooney Molders' Defense Committee, which is the official Committee carrying on the fight and of which Committee I am the director, and so I hope that you will see that the funds are properly directed to this Committee and that any communications to me are addressed in care of the Committee, P.O. Box 1475, San Francisco.

Your Convention marks a great forward step in the march of Organized Labor in the United States, and makes more sufferable the many years that Billings and I have spent in prison for the cause of the workers and the right of working men to band together in Unions for their own self-protection and to get a small measure of the things due them in this life.

I am slowly returning to health and I am more determined than ever to carry on this fight for freedom and vindication, and I hope that before many more days have passed we will be freed and that we will be able to greet you outside of prison and join once again in the fight of the working class.

With my profound, heartfelt and grateful thanks for the generous action of your Convention and your own part in obtaining it, I send you my warmest personal regards and the very best of good wishes.

Tom Mooney  
3-1937

THIS COMMITTEE IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT FUNDS FOR THE DEFENSE OF TOM MOONEY

## Resolution on Tom Mooney

Passed by the Second Annual Convention International Union

United Automobile Workers, August 25, 1937.

WHEREAS: Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings have been confined to California's penitentiaries for twenty-one years, the victims of a vicious anti-union frame-up conceived and effected by unprincipled special interests; and

WHEREAS: The innocence of Mooney and Billings has been affirmatively established beyond any possible doubt, the perjured witnesses against them having long since discredited and exposed; and

WHEREAS: The twenty-year fight for freedom has recently culminated in Tom Mooney's obtaining a hearing on habeas corpus in the Supreme Court of California; and

WHEREAS: In the event this court refuses to grant Mooney's freedom, the case will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS: There is a better likelihood than there has ever been that Tom Mooney will be freed by the Supreme Court of the United States when his case is heard before that Court; and

there is work to do to make America free, to make American workers free from the great corporations, and give them the right to belong to their unions so they can stand in their own community, and in their own plants, and in their own neighborhood, four-square and erect and vote the dictates of their own conscience when it comes time for them to express their convictions.

I bring to the United Automobile Workers greetings from millions of the members of the Committee for Industrial Organization, millions of Americans who have lent you their strength and who have prayed for you in their prayers. They join with you in striving for the things that are in your hearts, and I only ask in return that they can look at the hundreds or thousands of members of the United Automobile Workers of America as being some hundreds of thousands of Americans who will ever remain true and loyal to their unions, and join with the rest of them in fighting for what every man and woman that works for a living have here in their hearts in our own country. I thank you.

WHEREAS: The generous, whole-hearted and complete support of organized labor is absolutely necessary in order to insure this victory which is expected; now therefore be it hereby

RESOLVED: By the UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS OF AMERICA in convention assembled that we throw our full strength behind the fight to free Tom Mooney and Warren Billings, and we hereby reaffirm and declare our belief in the absolute innocence of these brothers; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we petition the Governor of California, Frank F. Merriam, to grant Tom Mooney a full, complete and immediate pardon; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we donate the sum of \$10,000 to the Tom Mooney Molders' Defense Committee, to carry on the fight for Tom Mooney's freedom; and be it further

RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Frank F. Merriam of California, to Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings, and to the press.

## Vote Labor!

To the Editor: Just as the Detroit automobile workers took the lead in organizing powerful industrial unions, so we must now take the lead in organization on the political field.

The political action committee of the District Council, with the sanction of the International office, has picked five men to run for members of the Common Council of Detroit, and Patrick H. O'Brien as candidate for mayor.

In order to go on with our program to raise the standard of living of the workers, we must use our power at the polls.

We need a labor administration to stop the police from beating union men and women on the picket line.

Bring this question up in your local union, register now, vote in the October primary and November election. See that your wife votes, urge your grandmother to get out and Vote Labor.

John Panzer



# Lead Poisoning Afflicts Thousands In Auto Industry

The Medical Research Institute is the UAW's scientific instrument for determining the causes of industrial diseases and their prevalence in the automobile industry. Its research into cancer and lead poisoning in the industry will enable our Union to take adequate measures, through specific provisions in agreements and legislation, to end forever these plagues afflicting the automobile worker. It is hoped that this and succeeding articles will arouse even greater interest amongst our membership in the work of their Institute, and will develop a greater cooperation between them.

We freely make the assertion that in the state of Michigan it is much easier to get information about the kinds and prevalence of diseases that afflict pigs than it is to get adequate and accurate information about the kinds of industrial hazards and their prevalence afflicting human beings.

It is also a curious fact to unthinking people that the great state of Michigan has a Department of Labor and Industry that either knows nothing of industrial diseases or has willfully buried the facts out of public reach.

Unthinking people would naturally conclude that Michigan's citizens are more calloused as regard human suffering; thinking people conclude with greater conviction that the almighty power of the auto moguls' treasury and political power has either rendered impotent Michigan's labor department or turned it into a graveyard of the truth.

## Thousands Poisoned

Once in a blue moon there is a slight leakage and the world gets a glimpse of the great secret. Recently there was presented to the 66th Convention of the American Public Health Association the findings of a committee headed by Dr. Carey McCord, of the Industrial Health Conservancy Laboratories of Cincinnati, gathered in its investigation during the 1934-35 automobile production season. The findings, based on research while they were encouraged by the automobile companies in Detroit, estimated that about 4,000 workmen have been injured by lead poisoning during the 1934-35 production season.

## Causes of Poisoning

McCord's Committee in its report explained the causes of the great increase in lead poisoning as follows:

The automobile production season of 1934-35 marks the outstanding epidemic of lead poisoning in this country for at least the past decade.

Recent trends in body design and in the use of all-metal parts have led to one-piece all-metal non-air-resisting contours. The manufacturing processes call for the fitting in of all welding, depressions and other indentations with a lead-tin alloy. This is done by the use of molten lead pots and force work, which in turn are followed by various processes for the smoothing out of the leaded surfaces, including lead grinding, hand filing, sanding, etc. As a result, the atmosphere of these workrooms is polluted by harmful quantities of lead dust and lead-fumes. Occasionally as much as 1,100 milligrams of lead dust have been concentrated in 10 cubic meters of air, which amount of air approximates the quantity of air吸入 by the average workman during his usual work day.

We exhibit no bias when we say that Dr. McCord's report (also published in the American Journal of Public Health, October, 1935) estimating only 4,000 workmen afflicted with lead poisoning during the year 1934-35 is a deliberate underestimate. McCord's committee were in the employ of one automobile company they investigated. Their report is therefore based far on the consideration of the relations departments of automobile companies than anything else. The employees in commenting on the report during the past 10 years have been many affirming that industrial lead poisoning is a waning disease. While in

some measure this has been true up until 1934, the outstanding fact is that it is the severity of the affection that is waning, rather than the frequency.

Both these statements uttered to whitewash employer responsibility in this matter are open to serious doubt.

On what basis of fact do employers dare to utter such brazen lies? Has any impartial scientific body ever investigated the industry year after year? Has the State Department of Labor and Industry done an adequate and honest job on this matter?

About a year ago the Briggs Body Corporation started investigations into lead poisoning; recently information indicated that almost 13,000 blood tests taken among the employees of the plant revealed considerable amounts of lead absorption by these workers.

Apparently the employers and their stooges consider that only workers on the verge of death are truly poisoned; those not yet ready for their deathbed cannot be considered poisoned.

## Labor Board Gives Orders

Oakland, Calif.—The cease and desist order issued to National Motor Bearing by Clifford O'Brien, trial examiner for the NLRB, binds the company to:

1. Refrain from interfering, restraining or coercing its employees in the exercise of their right of self-organization.

2. Cease refusing to bargain collectively with UAW Local 76 as the exclusive representative of its members.

3. Stop discouraging membership in or affiliation with the UAW.

4. Immediate reinstatement of 55 employees to the jobs held by them at the plant on Feb. 26, 1937, without prejudice to any rights and privileges previously enjoyed.

5. Payment of back wages to the entire employee list, less the amounts earned by each since Feb. 27.

6. Post notices in conspicuous places in each department of the plant at Oakland stating that respondent will cease and desist and will not take adjournment steps; and leave such notices posted for a period of 30 days from the period of first posting.

General Motors and Ford plants here are temporarily shut down for a change of models.

The Labor Day parade was a 100 per cent success for the CIO.

## Asks UAW Aid for Gas Men

Cooperation with their CIO cousins, the United Mine Workers, in organizing the Detroit City Gas company was asked of all UAW members in a letter sent out by Vice-president R. J. Thomas to all locals in the area this week.

Gas workers in the great metropolitan areas from St. Louis to Boston have been successfully organized, the letter said, and continued with a request for cooperation of all locals "to the end that the gas workers in the city of Detroit take their place as members of the organized labor movement within the United Mine Workers."



## An Appeal

By JOHN W. DIBBEN,  
Local 83 UAW

We wish to thank the United Automobile Workers for the press on radio they have consented to give us in presenting our side of the Wilson story.

As the strike now existing between the United Dairy Workers and the Ira Wilson Dairy company is going into its 11th week, I feel that some explanation is due to the general public especially to the members of the UAW and other Labor Unions in Detroit. I will give you a brief sketch of the anti-union policies of the Ira Wilson & Sons Dairy company, which has the blanket labor record of any company in the industry. It was the first to have its Blue Eagle revoked during the NRA for firing Union men. This company continued its anti-union policies by discharging a number of employees for Union affiliation last March.

When the company feared a strike would be called, it immediately hired a large force of strike breakers from a well-known Detroit detective agency to intimidate the employees and our Union membership. These men were kept on the pay-roll at a large salary. They were later used to ride on the trucks with clubs in their hands to keep Union men from approaching the employees on the subject of joining the Union. We have been told by the employees of the Wilson Dairy that the company is paying the strike breakers an enormous salary to work during the strike.

The Wilson Dairy Company can spend thousands of dollars to break a strike, but it stubbornly refuses to do what 80% of the dairy interests in Detroit have done, namely, come to a satisfactory understanding with the union.

The Wilson Dairy Company represents a very small volume of the milk business in the City of Detroit. All larger milk companies in Detroit, in other words about 80%, have bargained collectively with the United Dairy Workers and we have signed closed shop agreements with them. Ira Wilson alone, remains as a citadel of the un-American open shop policy in Detroit. The Wilson Company has refused to deal with the Union and has used the customary anti-union strike-breaking tactics to keep Union men away from his employees. The head of the company is reliably reported to have openly declared that he has thirteen million dollars which he will use if necessary to break the CIO.

We call upon you automobile workers to lend us your support in winning this most crucial strike against the Goliath of the Dairy industry in Detroit.

## Here's What Labor Solidarity Can Do

Mr. William Munger, Managing Editor,  
United Automobile Worker,  
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Your article about the Boca Dam situation in the August 7th issue of the United Automobile Worker has been one of the greatest contributing factors for organization in this district.

There were a number of jobs in this locality which were not organized, mainly because of the fear of losing a job for joining a Union. Since our victory here at Boca, and the resultant good publicity, such as yours, the men have been signing up in droves. One line of advance, was to show the men a copy of the Automobile Worker and explain to them that if we got support from such a distance, they could imagine what the Western Locals would do, as well as the whole CIO. You can be sure the reticent ones were won over by such a show of solidarity. The CIO is comparatively new to this district, but it is on every tongue, everywhere one goes.

Fraternally yours,

Edward J. Cherry, Chairman  
Publicity Committee  
BOCA TUNNEL WORKERS UNION  
Boca, Calif.

## All's Fair in War on CIO, Weir Policy

Firing of some 300 employees by the Weirton Steel Company in Weirton, West Virginia in its fight against the formation of a CIO union is being brought to light in the National Labor Relations Board hearing in New Cumberland, West Virginia.

Workmen took the stand to testify of their being fired because they refused to join the company union, the Weirton Steel Employees Security League. They were told, "Join the League or get out of the mill."

Joseph A. Kelley, who started at Weirton Steel in 1921, was active in organizing a unit of the SWOC in the mill. When he saw a copy of the petition to form the Security League he decided that since it was an allegiance to Team Mill and the rest, he wouldn't sign.

Later, Dick Monte, a foreman, told Kelley "Either you sign or get the hell out of the mill."

Kelley said, "I signed. I have a family."

Other employees testified that they were approached with the proposition of joining the "hatchet gang," an organization "to keep the union organizers out of town. Two members of the "hatchet gang" testified that they were paid as high as \$10 a day to do their regular work to beat up union organizers and union men. Jack Larkin and Claude Conway, former West Virginia police, the two heads of the "hatchet gang" and the Security League were shown to have given orders to "beat up" union workers.

Paul Rusen, sub-regional director for SWOC, was a victim of the "hatchet gang."

"I was hit over the head and knocked out of the car and then tramped," he said.

He managed to drag himself out of the car and then saw his life. Rusen also said that three or four attempts were made to wreck his automobile.

The testimony of Kenneth Koch, SWOC organizer, and T. E. Martin, president of the local union, was presented at the hearing when the National Labor Relations Board heard testimony from the two sides.

The Koch, the public relations director for the SWOC, said that the Weirton Steel Company had been trying to break the SWOC by bringing in the Security League.

He stated that the two sides had been engaged in a "war of attrition" for some time.

The Koch said that the Weirton Steel Company had been trying to break the SWOC by bringing in the Security League.

# ★ CIO ACROSS AMERICA ★

## CIO Press Box

### Timely Editorial Comments

#### CIO PRESS COMMENTS

##### A Lively Ghost

Well boys and girls, the United Rubber Workers has laid away another begey in its grave.

This one was that the CIO is on the way out.

Remember? The papers and the radio and certain alleged labor leaders have been telling us that for a couple of months now.

So the other day the Goodyear and Goodrich workers went to the Labor Board polls and voted in the CIO United Rubber Workers as their exclusive collective bargaining agency by overwhelming majorities.

Like the death notices of Mark Twain, the reports of the CIO's demise have been highly exaggerated.

If you ask us, the CIO is a pretty lively ghost!

—United Rubber Worker

#### LABOR DAY—1917

What unionism really can do is beginning to be appreciated by workmen in the steel industry. Its true understanding can come only through time.

A year ago on Labor Day, unionism in the steel industry was simply a dream in the minds of some and a determination in the minds of others. Labor Day of 1936 in the steel industry was the same as Labor Day in 1935 and 1934 and 1929 and so on back for nearly 50 years.

A year ago on Labor Day—to look at the practical side of the problem—laborers were being paid about 42 cents an hour; the average for the industry was around 68 cents. The 48-hour week was in effect; there was little or no protection for the workman no matter what his length of service; holidays were rare, and then were granted only by the whim of the management. As a matter of fact on Labor Day of 1936, there was a determined and planned effort to keep as many men in the mills as possible. Organizers were abroad in the land, and it was best if workmen did not hear about higher wages, seniority and economic liberty.

This Labor Day we find the common laborer in steel making a minimum of \$5 a day, with the 40-hour week prevailing schedule. Seniority and protection are guaranteed, grievance machinery has been set up. The answer is simple: Unionism.

Today four-fifths of the steel industry is unionized. Under contract are close to 400 manufacturing, processing and fabricating firms, employing upwards of 500,000 workers. These are no idle figures thrown into this comment. Turn to page seven of this issue of "Steel Labor" and check the names of each and every company. There you will find the facts.

But there are other equally important factors in true unionism. For the first time in the history of steel, workmen are free to exercise their inherent rights as free men. No longer do they have to take dictation on election day; no longer do they have to put up with a bad-tempered boss. In the steel mills under contract a workman's life is his own. His sole duty to his employer is to do an honest day's work and to do it competently.

In many sections of the steel nation on Labor Day there were celebrations. Steel men took part in these celebrations and gave thanks for their union. They pled ad infinitum to carry on until their union is what it can be and the most powerful union in the world.

Ironically, written into the movement is the fact that Labor Day of 1937 is an established holiday in the steel industry.

## First State CIO Convention In The United States To Convene In Milwaukee Sept. 30

The first state convention of CIO unions to be held anywhere in the United States will convene in Milwaukee Sept. 30 and continue through Oct. 3.

The CIO sessions are expected to take on a strong political flavor. The unions affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization have made no secret of their intentions to play an important role in Wisconsin politics.

Recently, the Wisconsin Farmer-Labor Progressive Federation invited CIO union members to join the federation. It is considered doubtful that the CIO forces will be satisfied with this arrangement.

There is strong sentiment among the CIO groups for participation in a third party movement as groups rather than by individual memberships.

Philip Murray, dynamic national chairman of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee whose membership totals nearly 500,000 workers, will head the convention's speaking program. Murray is also vice president of the great United Mine Workers of America, the largest union in the western hemisphere.

Other speakers on the four-day program include Charles P. Howard, secretary of the Committee for Industrial Organization and president of the International Typographical union; Francis J. Gorman, international president

of the United Textile Workers of America; Van A. Bittner, mid-western director of the Steel Workers Organizing committee.

About 176 local unions affiliated with 18 national and international CIO unions are expected to attend the convention. There will be between 400 and 500 delegates from all sections of Wisconsin, including Racine, Kenosha, La Crosse, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Beloit, Madison, Eau Claire, Portage, Ripon, Lake Mills, Superior, Wausau, Fort Atkinson.

Among the international affiliates that will be present at the convention are the United Electrical and Radio Workers, the United Mine Workers, the Steel

Workers, the United Automobile Workers, the American Newspaper Guild, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the International Ladies Garment Workers, the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, the United Shoe Workers union.

A state CIO convention, probably the first in the United States, will be adopted by the delegates. It is expected to serve as a model for CIO central bodies in other states.

The officers of the Wisconsin State Industrial Union council under whose auspices the convention will be held are: Costello, Harold Christoffel, secretary, and Gunnar Mickelsen, state director.

Costello is also president of the AFL federal local at the Simmons furniture factory in Kenosha. Christoffel is president of the Allis-Chalmers Auto Workers union, the largest union in Wisconsin. Mickelsen is an international vice president of the American Newspaper Guild.

Members of the state CIO executive committee are, Carl Keller, Hosiery Workers, who is chairman of the convention committee; Leo McStrouli, Municipal Employees; Louis Schultz, Amalgamated Clothing Workers; John Milkent and Paul Russo, Auto Workers; Giles M. Hanson, Frank Miller and Gilbert Baumann, Steel Workers; James White, Electrical and Radio Workers; Max Kagan, Oil Workers; Silas Morin, Auto Workers; and Ben Dolnick, International Ladies Garment Workers.

Organizer J. D. Persily declared, "We have no fight with the members of the AFL. The main business of the CIO has been, is and will continue to be the organization of the unorganized workers of the United States."

## CIO Council

Indianapolis.—The CIO Industrial Union council began work in this city with 65 Marion county local unions affiliated. Among them are auto workers, rubber workers, hosiery workers, ladies garment workers, men's clothing workers, steel workers, electrical and radio workers, and state county and municipal workers.

Other speakers on the four-day program include Charles P. Howard, secretary of the Committee for Industrial Organization and president of the International Typographical union; Francis J. Gorman, international president

## Labor March

### United Electrical & Radio Convention

Philadelphia — Grown and launched to a half since about 125,000 members, with locals, and ranking seventh among unions affiliated with the Committee for Industrialization, the United Electrical and Radio Workers held its convention here to plan for progress.

The name of the organization was altered to United Electrical and Machine Workers to cover workers in tool and stamping and light metal making, many of whom have enrolled recently.

A broad national organization campaign was planned to up recent advances. Work union was grouped under divisions: utilities, radio, General Motors, General Electric, Westinghouse.

Sixty locals were repre-

At the final session of the second annual convention of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, the convention endorsed the program of the Labor's Non-Partisan League.

A proposal to contribute \$6500 a month to the support of the Committee for Industrial Organization was passed, 237. Each of the members to be assessed 5 cents a month to meet the payments.

utilities, a field virtually undeveloped until recently but now for vigorous organization. Some contracts are already in effect. The convention cleared the first closed shop agreement with a utility—located in a mining town—which was described as a model contract.

Agreements with General Electric are in force in Ft. Wayne, Lynn, Schenectady, Brooklyn and New Kensington, and the International G. E. conference committee is negotiating for a national agreement. The U. E. & R. W. has been certified by the labor board at Westinghouse's huge East Pittsburgh plant and has set up a national committee to press for collective bargaining. An industry-wide drive is under way in the motors.

Powerful old locals, Philco, Lynn General Electric, Springfield (Mass.) Western, were represented in force. Delegations from new locals total has grown from 26 to 18 months—were there for the first time. At the first convention little west of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, represented. This year it is coast-to-coast convention. Canada represented too.

James B. Carey, president, was unanimously elected, as was Julius Englehardt, secretary treasurer. The constitution was amended to accommodate the needs of a growing organization, and the union reorganized. Peirapita was appointed to 300 per month to handle organization and to handle the capital in turn to the CIO.

Twelve vice presidents provided for, representatives of different division and areas were chosen as follows: (1) being left open for future representation from the south: Block, Philadelphia; Campbell, Westinghouse; Reid, Mass.; William Pringle, N. Y.; R. Schenectady, N. Y.; McLoch, Edinboro; Franklin, Dayton, O.; William Shipp, Louis, Robert E. Shipp, San Francisco; Pittsburgh, Westinghouse; General D. G. Hunting, Indiana; Larry P. Wayne, Ind.; C. S. Jackson, Chicago; C. S. Jackson, Canada. All are active and tried in the struggle.

## Negro Workers Eager to Organize

By GEORGE STREATOR, ACWA  
and EDWARD WITT, TWOC

Editor's Note: George Streator, ace organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, is a native of Tennessee. Streator is one of America's ablest Negro journalists. He achieved national prominence as editor of "Crisis," Edward Witt, an organizer for the Textile Workers Organizing Committee, is a native of North Carolina. Both are experts on trade union and racial problems.

are eager to organize and better their living conditions. There are several live-wire groups among the colored workers engaged in the manufacture of cotton garments. Shops under the jurisdiction of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers report that the majority of colored workers have signed up.

## Red Caps Organize

A new labor union has been born. The International Brotherhood of Red Caps. They have invited President Homer Martin to be a member of their National Advisory Council. This new international, though as yet unaffiliated to the CIO, is thoroughly CIO in its conceptions of labor unionism.

Regional directors are: Eugene Frazier, Eastern; John Vancey, Jr., Southern & Western; Michael Harvey, Central, and Otho Robinson, Northern.

The first issue of the Brotherhood's journal, "Bags & Baggage," is a bright and informative issue. The journal is edited by Willard Sawby Townsend, secretary, and Ernest Calloway, managing editor. Says "Bags & Baggage" editorially—

"The economic problem of the present and the immediate future is that of removing occupational poverty. The great preoccupation in this respect are the Red Caps who are impoverished because the great carriers of the nation refuse to consider them as employees, yet they are subjected to the same scheduled program as all other members of the railroad fraternity."

That's why they organized. And organized, they look to the CIO for sound and modern labor unionism.

The Cleaners and Dyers are pushing ahead with active, courageous colored workers joining up with white workers in an attempt to clean up the filthy working conditions and low wages in that industry.

The Rag Graders, now affiliated with the TWOC, recently elected as President, Brother Steve Washington, a Negro worker. There are many white workers among the rag graders. But they forgot the matter of race, and put hours and wages ahead as the primary issue.

The bosses are up to the usual filth of encouraging race hatred. In the rag picking industry they called in the white workers, trying to plant race superiority notions in the heads of white workers, giving them flattery, but no improved working conditions. But among the organized rag graders, white and Negro, there is determination to win better wages and hours.

Among the workers in cotton garments, the same stunts are being pulled. White workers are being called in to convince them that they should join "white" company unions. The colored workers are being told that the white workers will "sell them out." How are the organizers going to face these problems in Baltimore?

If they do not tackle them directly by talking against these tricks, there will never be much success in building strong unions in these industries employing a large number of Negroes. It is amazing how many white workers are able to grasp quickly the tricks that are being played. They see them more quickly than many "intellectuals" who think they have emancipated themselves.

We hope for the day when all organizations will rid themselves of the many so-called race and religious problems. If they can "live" themselves, they can save everybody else. It takes courage, not sentimentality, to solve the Southern problem. And it can be done!

# Lewis Warns Politicians, Corporations

Attacks Independent Steel for Murdering Workers; Urges Close Cooperation With Working Farmers in Coast-to-Coast Broadcast

WASHINGTON (UNS)—John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, in a nation-wide broadcast September 3, hailed the growth of the CIO to a membership of almost four million and warned that the corporations responsible for the killing of 18 steel strikers, together with their political henchmen, would be held responsible by the people of America for the use of cold-blooded and wanton murder as a desperate means of keeping trade union organization out of their plants.

#### CENSORED

The reference to Governor Davey, of Ohio, as "the infamous Governor Davey" was censored in the prepared radio address of John L. Lewis delivered on Sept. 3 over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

This sentence was also deleted: "Girdler, of Republic Steel, in the quiet of his bed chamber doubtless shrills his psychopathic cackles as he files notches on his corporate gun and views in retrospect the ruthless work of his mercenary killers."

Pointing out that the steel industry generally has accepted collective bargaining and negotiated wage agreements with the CIO, Lewis cited the record of contracts covering 510,000 workers and signed by 399 firms. These firms, he stated, represented 85 per cent of the steel industry. Only five corporations "elected to resist collective bargaining and undertook to destroy the steel workers' union," he said. These companies filled their plants with industrial spies, assembled depots of guns and gas bombs, established barricades, controlled their communities with armed thugs, used the police power of cities and mobilized the military power of a state to guard them against intrusion of collective bargaining within their plants.

#### LAYS STEEL WORKERS MURDERED

Lewis further accused both state and federal administrations of indifference, if not actual encouragement, of the murder of American workers, pointing out that: "The murder of these unarmed men has never been publicly rebuked by any authoritative officer of the state or Federal Government. Some of them, in extenuation, plead lack of jurisdiction, but under as a crime against the moral code can always be rebuked without regard to the niceties of public jurisdiction by those who profess to be the keepers of the public conscience."

An awakening political consciousness among the union workers of the nation was indicated by Lewis in a sharp warning to political officers, who have sold out, to labor-hating corporations.

"Labor next year" Lewis stated, "cannot avoid the necessity of a frank assay of the work and deeds of its so-called friends and political beneficiaries. It must determine who are its friends in the arena of politics as elsewhere. It is felt that its cause is just and its friends should not view its struggle with neutral detachment or intense constant criticism of its activities."

Those who chant their praises of terror and violence used to drive their knives into the defenseless back must feel the weight of labor's woe even as its adversaries must ever feel the weight of labor's power."

#### NEW ENROLLMENT

It has listeners' attention and growth of the CIO, in itself, Lewis gave the enrollment of 3718,000, enlisted in 32 national and international

unions and 507 local units not yet attached to any of the national bodies.

This phenomenal growth, the CIO leader pointed out, is due to the fact that "the purposes and objectives of the CIO find economic, social, political and moral justification in the hearts of the millions who are its members and the millions more who support it."

The CIO is "a new labor movement, conceived within the principles of the national bill of rights and committed to the proposition that the workers are free to assemble in their own forums, voice their own grievances, declare their own hopes and contract on even terms with modern industry for the sale of their only material possession—their labor," he said.

Lewis further charged that those organizations that foster vigilante, strike-breaking groups to fight labor organization are "rendering a disservice to the American people in their attempts to frustrate the organization of labor and in their refusal to accept collective bargaining as one of our economic institutions."

#### REAL BREEDERS OF DISCONTENT

"Fascist organizations have been launched and financed under the shabby pretext that the CIO movement is Communistic," he declared. "The real breeders of discontent and alien doctrines of government and philosophies subversive of good citizenship are such as those who take the law into their own hands."

"No tin hat brigade of goose-stepping vigilantes or bubble-talking mob of blackguarding and corporation-paid scoundrels will prevent the onward march of labor, or divert its purpose to play its natural and rational part in the development of the economic, political and social life of our nation."

A portion of the address was devoted to the community of interest between the working farmer and the laboring men and women of the towns and cities. Pointing out that both have suffered from the same unjust distribution of the national income, Lewis dwelt on the fact that farm prosperity and city prosperity are interdependent.

#### THE FARMER' PROBLEMS

"It is when the payroll goes



Students at the UAW summer school play ball.

#### BULLETIN

A round table discussion over WJBK, Detroit, this Sunday morning at 9:30-10:00 will feature "Recreation Program for the United Automobile Workers of America" a topic of great interest to all our members. The round table speakers in the discussion are: Melvin West, recreational director UAW, Roland Phillips, recreational department, Robert Verible, Local 7 and Fred Holbrook, Local 174.

## Sees Recreation Program Expanded

In an interview with Melvin West, recreational director of the UAW, we were informed that all indications point to a great expansion of recreational activities on a well-planned and financed basis. Brother West was confident that the new executive board of the union realizes the necessity of such an extensive program as an additional method of building and consolidating the union. On the basis of this understanding, added Brother West, the board will undoubtedly lend great impetus to the organizing and financing of the newly proposed program.

**YOUTH MUST BE SERVED . . .**  
It is smart, said West, for a union to promote "gaiety and sociability" as a part of its "struggle to maintain the rights of those who labor."

"After all," he exclaimed with great earnestness, "the bringing together of our union members in recreational activities cements bonds of friendship between them and between them and the organization."

"Youth, the youth of our union, should be given those recreational activities under union leadership and direction that have hitherto been solely extended to them by

down," he stated, "that the farmers' realization is diminished, so that his loans become overdue at the bank and the arrival of the tax collector is awaited with fear. On the other hand it is the prosperity of the farmer that quickens the tempo of manufacturing activities and brings buying power to the millions of urban and industrial workers."

Lewis closed his address with a summation of labor's aims: "I repeat that labor seeks peace and guarantees its own loyalty, but the voice of labor, insistent upon its rights, should not be annoying to the ears of justice of the American people."

#### enemy organizations."

"Young people naturally demand more out of life than the older unionists. They will be deeply grateful to our Union for any aid the Union gives them in satisfying their recreational desires."

#### FOR LABOR SPORTS

It is the aim of the recreational program now being proposed, concluded the UAW's recreational director, to furnish each union member the opportunity of engaging in his favorite sport or recreation under helpful and friendly guidance. Everything is going labor—why not recreation!

#### UAW'S NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

The first official meeting of the Executive Board since the Convention will be held next week beginning Monday. Important matters pertaining to the growth of the union will be brought before the board for its consideration, and recommendation.

The following are the names of the board members:

F. J. MICHEL  
Racine, Wisconsin

ELLSWORTH KRAMER  
Toledo, Ohio

R. E. REISINGER  
Cleveland, Ohio

PAUL E. MILEY  
Cleveland, Ohio

C. H. MILLARD  
Oshawa, Canada

FRED PIEPER  
Atlanta, Georgia

RUSSELL B. MERRILL  
South Bend, Indiana

DELMONT GARST  
St. Louis, Missouri

FRANK TUCCI  
Tarrytown, New York

IRWIN CAREY  
Los Angeles, California

WALTER REUTHER  
Detroit, Michigan

MORRIS FIELD  
Detroit, Michigan

LOREN HAUSER  
Detroit, Michigan

LEO LaMOTTE  
Detroit, Michigan

TRACY DOLL  
Detroit, Michigan

LESTER WASHBURN  
Lansing, Michigan

CHARLES E. MADDEN  
Pontiac, Michigan

## Detroit Labor Slate

(Continued from Page 3)  
port from the joint slate it endorsed Ewald for reelection, and the AFL has since endorsed him also.

Interestingly enough, it was Ewald who defeated Sugar in 1935 race. Detroit municipal elections are nonpartisan with the highest nine candidates for the Common Council being elected. Ewald was ninth two years ago with 69,000 votes, and Sugar was tenth with 55,000. As attorney for the United Automobile Workers and many other labor groups, Sugar has figured prominently in labor struggles in Detroit and won the support of large groups of workers. It is significant that Sugar was opposed by all three Detroit dailies, while Ewald had the support of them all. Only 167,000 of the halfmillion registered voters of the city voted in 1935, which shows what the auto worker's union could accomplish politically if it could get its 200,000 Detroit members to go to the polls.

The automobile workers have had an interesting experience with political action. Last year they supported the effort to form a farmer-labor party in both the city and the state. The district council and many of the locals of the UAWA were affiliated with the Farmer-Labor Party, as were a number of the craft locals of the AFL. The Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, however, remained aloof. The support of the auto union was not then nearly as important as it is today, for the great growth in membership has occurred in the meantime. The 1936 convention of the UAWA, it is interesting to note, instructed the national office and the local unions to give the strongest possible support to the formation of national, state, and local farmer-labor parties.

Most of the thousands of automobile unionists who are providing the mass base of this interesting political effort had never been in any labor organization until a few months ago. It was they who helped to shatter the General Motors anti-union stronghold. Many of them followed the Coughlin banners but a short time ago. Raw and untrained, they may be marshaled into a genuine workers' political movement or swept off their feet by some silver-tongued fascist demagogue. That is what gives labor's new-born political venture in Detroit its real significance, and that is why this fall's municipal campaign in the capital of the auto empire will command attention.

#### KENTUCKY MINERS DEFENSE

New York.—Delegates to the United Automobile Workers of America convention in Milwaukee pledged full support to the nation-wide campaign to free the four Harlan-county union miners serving life-terms in Kentucky in the Evansville battle cases, and recommended that the general executive board give "adequate financial assistance" to the Kentucky Miners Defense, which is leading that fight.

Contributions should be sent to Herbert Muller, Kentucky Miners Defense, Room 4, 75 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

## The Auto Worker on the Air

Station WJBK—1500 Kilocycles—200.0 Meters  
7:00 to 7:15 every evening—9:30 to 10 a. m. Sunday

**WED.** Review of convention activities by Francis A. Henson, administrative assistant of President Homer Martin.

**THURS.** Celebrities night.

**FRI.** Final Installment of "Castaways of Plenty", a satire on our present economic set-up.

**SAT.** Further adventures of "The Auto Kids of the Air" serial.

**SUN.** Education department program.

**MON.** Program of labor music.

**TUES.** Authentic interview with Ford worker exposing Fordian layoff tactics.